



IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments in the claims:

1. (Canceled) ~~A method for infusing potting compound into a desired region of strands within~~
~~_____ a cable, comprising:~~
 - ~~_____ a. _____ exposing a length of strands within said cable;~~
 - ~~_____ b. _____ placing a barrier device over said exposed length of strands in order to divide said~~
~~_____ exposed length of strands into a guarded region of strands and an exposed region of~~
~~_____ strands;~~
 - ~~_____ c. _____ infusing said potting compound into said exposed region of strands.~~

2. (Currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ for infusing potting compound into an
_____ exposed length of strands within a cable, wherein said exposed length of strands are exposed
on an end of said cable so that said length of exposed strands has a fixed end attached to said
cable and a free end, comprising: ~~and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over~~
~~_____ said exposed length of strands comprises:~~
 - a. placing a first barrier around said length of exposed strands proximate said fixed
end;
 - b. splaying said length of exposed strands outward to form a fan, having a first side
facing said first barrier and a second side facing away from said first barrier;
 - c. placing a second barrier proximate said fan on said second side; ~~and~~

- d. pressing said first and second barriers together to hold said fan in place and divide said fan into ~~said~~ an exposed region, which lies outside said first and second barriers, and ~~said~~ a guarded region, which lies inside said first and second barriers- : and

e. infusing said potting compound into said exposed region.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

- a. providing said first barrier with a first barrier edge facing said free end of said exposed strands, wherein said first barrier edge assumes the form of a truncated cone;
- b. providing said second barrier with a second barrier edge facing said first barrier edge, wherein said second barrier edge assumes the form of a truncated cone, so that when said first and second barriers are pressed together, said fan of exposed strands is deflected into a truncated cone.

4. ~~(Canceled) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said exposed length of strands are~~
~~exposed on an end of said cable so that said length of exposed strands has a fixed end~~
~~attached to said cable and a free end, and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over~~
~~said exposed length of strands comprises:~~

- ~~a. placing a first barrier on a first side of said length of exposed strands proximate said~~
~~fixed end;~~
- ~~b. placing a second barrier proximate on a second side of said length of exposed strands,~~
~~wherein said second side is opposite said first side, and~~

~~c. pressing said first and second barriers together to hold said length of exposed strands in place and divide said length of exposed strands into said exposed region, which extends from said first and second barriers to said free end, and said guarded region.~~

5. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 4 2, further comprising providing said first barrier with a strand slot and providing said second barrier with a strand slot.

6. (Canceled) ~~A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising splaying said length of exposed strands into a fan before pressing said first and second barriers together.~~

7. (Canceled) ~~A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising providing said first barrier with a strand slot and providing said second barrier with a strand slot.~~

8. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 6 2, wherein said first barrier is curved and wherein said second barrier is curved.

9. (Canceled) ~~A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said first barrier is curved and wherein said second barrier is curved.~~

10. (Currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ for infusing potting compound into an exposed length of strands within a cable, wherein said exposed length of strands are exposed on an end of said cable so that said length of exposed strands has a fixed end attached to said cable and a free end, comprising: ~~and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over said exposed length of strands comprises:~~

- a. folding said free end of said length of exposed strands back over said cable to form a strand collar;
- b. placing a first barrier on a first side of said strand collar;
- c. placing a second barrier on a second side of said strand collar; ~~and~~
- d. pressing said first and second barriers together to hold said strand collar against said cable and divide said strand collar into ~~said~~ an exposed region, which lies between said first and second barriers and said free end, and ~~said a~~ a guarded region: and
- e. infusing said potting compound into said exposed region.

11. (Currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ for infusing potting compound into an exposed length of strands within a cable, wherein said exposed length of strands are exposed on an end of said cable so that said length of exposed strands has a fixed end attached to said cable and a free end, comprising: ~~and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over said exposed length of strands comprises:~~

- a. folding said free end of said length of exposed strands back over said cable to form a strand collar; ~~and~~

b. sliding a collar over said strand collar to hold said strand collar against said cable and divide said strand collar into ~~said~~ an exposed region, which lies between said collar and said free end, and ~~said a guarded region;~~ and

c. infusing said potting compound into said exposed region.

12. (Canceled) ~~A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said cable has a first end and a second end, wherein said exposed length of strands are exposed somewhere between said first and second ends of said cable, wherein said exposed length of strands has a first boundary and a second boundary, and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over said exposed length of strands comprises:~~

~~a. placing a first barrier around said length of exposed strands proximate said first boundary of said exposed strands; and~~

~~b. placing a second barrier around said length of exposed strands proximate said second boundary of said exposed strands to divide said length of exposed strands into said exposed region, lying between said first and second barriers, and said guarded region.~~

13. (Canceled) ~~A method as recited in claim 12, wherein:~~

~~a. said first barrier is provided in the form of a plurality of pieces which can be clamped together; and~~

~~b. said second barrier is provided in the form of a plurality of pieces which can be clamped together.~~

14. (Currently amended) A method ~~are~~ as recited in claim 2, further comprising providing said first barrier with an O-ring positioned to bear against said fan when said first and second barriers are pressed together.
15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising providing said second barrier with a groove aligned with said O-ring.
16. (Currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ for infusing potting compound into an exposed length of strands within a cable, wherein said cable has a first end and a second end, wherein said exposed length of strands are exposed somewhere between said first and second ends of said cable, wherein said exposed length of strands has a first boundary and a second boundary, comprising: ~~and wherein said step of placing said barrier device over said exposed~~
~~length of strands comprises:~~
- a. placing a first barrier around said length of exposed strands proximate said first boundary of said exposed strands;
 - b. placing a second barrier around said length of exposed strands proximate said second boundary of said exposed strands;
 - c. placing said cable in compression to form a bulge of strands between said first and second barriers, wherein said bulge extends outward beyond said first and second barriers, so that said an exposed region of strands lies outside said first and second barriers and ~~said a~~ guarded region of strands lies inside said first and second barriers;
and

d. pressing said first and second barriers together. ~~;~~ and

e. infusing said potting compound into said exposed region.